

# Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

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May 2012

## Letter to the Editor

Dear ACGNJ,

It was my pleasure to know Bill Farrell for the past 25 years at the ACGNJ. I hope he is very busy in the help desk in heaven. His unyielding dedication to our country; the years of effort that he put in at RCA on team projects. And the work that built satellite communications, Internet, voice and communications are from his hands. His ability to help people and the unfortunate children was absolutely stellar. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust - his memory lives on within transistors and chips that never fail in heaven. You were a hero and inspiration to all of the ACGNJ. Signing off, radio out Bill. Roger over and out.

Professor Harry Broderick,  
Sparta, New Jersey

## ACGNJ Announcements

**Main Meeting** - Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 10 PM

Home Automation - computer lights, security. etc.

**Window Pains Meeting** - Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 10 PM  
ACGNJ 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party! Ice cream cake & videos.

**Editor's Note:** We've added eight pages to this issue, thus *doubling* our usual number of articles. Enjoy!



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## ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website ([www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org)).

**Main Meeting:** Friday, May 4, 8:00 PM

Evan Williams ([president@acgnj.org](mailto:president@acgnj.org))

**Lunics (Linux/UNIX):** Monday, May 7, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer ([lunics@acgnj.org](mailto:lunics@acgnj.org))

**Java:** Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich ([mike@redlich.net](mailto:mike@redlich.net))

**WebDev:** Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 PM

Evan Williams ([webdev@acgnj.org](mailto:webdev@acgnj.org))

**Investing:** Thursday, May 10, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper ([jim@thecoopers.org](mailto:jim@thecoopers.org)).

**NJ Gamers:** Friday, May 11, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy ([greggmajestic@gmail.com](mailto:greggmajestic@gmail.com))

**Layman's Forum:** Monday, May 14, 8:00 PM

Matt Skoda ([som359@aol.com](mailto:som359@aol.com))

**Hardware Workshop:** Monday, May 14, 8 PM

Mike Reagan ([hardware@acgnj.org](mailto:hardware@acgnj.org))

**C/C++:** Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold ([barnold@ieee.org](mailto:barnold@ieee.org))

**Window Pains:** Friday, May 18, 8:00 PM


John Raff ([john@jraff.com](mailto:john@jraff.com))

**Firefox:** Monday, May 21, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie ([firefox@acgnj.org](mailto:firefox@acgnj.org))

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Tues, May 29, 7 PM

Evan Williams ([president@acgnj.org](mailto:president@acgnj.org))

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back cover. 

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**Submissions:** Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to [newsletter@acgnj.org](mailto:newsletter@acgnj.org) preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

**Tips for reviewers:** Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

**Advertising:** Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

**Publication Exchange:** Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

**Address Changes** should be e-mailed to [membership@acgnj.org](mailto:membership@acgnj.org) or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

**Membership:** Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

**Typographic Note:** This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

### E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>).

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## Back Me Up, Sweetie

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

I like it when I can use a “twist” on a cliché as my title. I also like it when I can use a pun in my title. This month, I'm loving it, because I got to do *both*. The cliché, of course, is “Beam me up, Scotty”. That's a prime example of misquotation, a fairly common phenomenon in literature and journalism. A real or fictional phrase gets “distilled” through extraneous use until it comes out sounding *a whole lot* better than whatever its original source actually was. In fact, William Shatner (playing Captain James T. Kirk) **never, ever** said those exact words, in that exact order, in *any* *Star Trek* TV episode or movie. The closest he came was in *Star Trek: The Animated Series* (where he **did** provide the voice), when he said; “Beam us up, Mr. Scott”. (For further details, see *Back Us Up, Mister Tux* in our March 2012 issue). As for the pun: In this article, I'll be looking at Simple Backup Suite 0.11.4 (also known as SBackup), a file-based (rather than image-based) Linux backup program. Get it? Suite, Sweetie. (There will be a brief intermission while the entire audience groans).

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K\_DRIVE respectively, each has a total capacity of 43.2 GB). All three of them are now **almost** completely full. I\_DRIVE contains 146 files in 7 directories, totaling 42.7 GB. (Of the 28 files in its root directory, 13 are bigger than 1 GB). J\_DRIVE contains 196 files in 17 directories, totaling 42.4 GB. (Of the 39 files in its root directory, 8 are bigger than 1 GB). Likewise, K\_DRIVE contains 188 files in 9 directories, totaling 42.5 GB. (Of the 140 files in its root directory, 21 are bigger than 1 GB). Even though I'm only testing one program this time, SBackup **does** offer a choice of three compression levels (none, gzip and bzip2). So I'll be backing up a different one of those three partitions under each of those levels.

However, before I could make my three new test backups, I had to re-do the three MD5 files that I made last year for my subject partitions. Later, the program MD5Summer.exe (running under Ubuntu via Wine, the translation layer/program loader for Windows applications) can use those new MD5 files to verify that *all* of my files have been both backed

In the real world, I wrote this article (except, of course, for some obviously later edits, like **this** paragraph) in early February of 2012, *before* I wrote *Back Us Up, Mister Tux* (in which I looked at the Linux backup program KBackup). Unfortunately, in its finished form, this article was just **too long** to be included in our March 2012 issue. (That was our annual handout for the Trenton Computer Festival (TCF), printed in real ink on real live paper). So it had to be postponed until now; but please realize that I installed and experimented with SBackup first, **not** Kbackup. As I said in *Back Us Up, Mister Tux*, it's now time for the seven partitions on my 320 GB data hard disk to receive their annual quality checks, using Spinrite (my fabulous but proprietary hard disk testing program); and before I can do that, I've first got to make temporary backups of those partitions. (To protect my data from possible Spinrite accidents).

In *Back Us Up, Mister Gates* (my article for our April 2011 issue), I made test backups of three of those partitions. (Labeled I\_DRIVE, J\_DRIVE and

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up and restored identically. In all three of my subject partitions, files had been added and/or deleted recently. While it **could** have been possible to identify those files separately and then edit the old MD5 files to update their information, it was quicker and easier just to create new MD5 files. (I\_Total.MD5 took 32 minutes, J\_Total.MD5 took 33 minutes, and K\_Total.MD5 took 31 minutes). Then it was time to make a backup.

First, though, I must digress slightly to tell you that I *really don't like* the new Unity desktop. (And I'm definitely **not** the only one, either). When I'm feeling uncharitable (which in this particular case is quite often), I think of it as the “U-nit-wit” desktop. Unfortunately, I **don't** have the time or space that I'd need to properly enumerate all of my objections; but I *have* to tell you about this now because I don't want to confuse anybody, and the menus that I'll be mentioning shortly come from the “Gnome Classic” desktop that I'm currently using, **not** from Unity. So rest assured that if you can't follow what I'm saying below, it's *my* fault, not yours. Anyway, to continue:

On the **Accessories** sub-menu of my **Applications** drop-down menu, there were two SBackup options: **Simple Backup-Configuration** and **Simple Backup-Restoration**. I selected **Simple Backup-Configuration**. That brought up the **Simple Backup Suite** window. On its **General** tab, **Compression format** was already set to **none**, so I didn't have to change anything there. On the **Include** tab, under **Included files and directories**, I changed **/home/bob** to **/media/I\_DRIVE**. On the **Exclude** tab, there were four sub-categories: **Paths**, **File types**, **Regular Expressions** and **Others**, with more than a dozen values listed by default. Two of them (**iso** and **mp3**) really surprised me. Now, I myself have hardly any mp3 files; but I've got *lots* of iso files. I'd imagine, though, that *many* potential customers for this program might have plenty of both. I just don't understand why the SBackup authors would deliberately *sabotage* their users in this way. (I only found that **iso** entry because I was being extra thorough. Otherwise, I could easily have missed it). Anyway, I deleted *all* of their defaults.

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I clicked on it (*either* right or left), I got a drop down menu with "Simple Backup" at the top, followed by four grayed out (and *completely* unreadable) listings, and then "Cancel Backup" at the bottom. Clicking on "Simple Backup" (again, *either* right or left) just got me an **About Simple Backup Suite** window, quite like the **Help > About** window that you'd get from just about *any* program out there. *No* "progress" or "time" indicators of any kind. When the backup completed, an "ending" message *did* appear, but it vanished again after only a few seconds. If I'd been away from the computer at the time, it might have been a while before I figured out that the backup was finished. *Not at all* what I'd expected.

According to its log file, my first backup took 34 minutes and 19 seconds. On my Expansion Drive, I found a new directory (named 2012-02-11\_04.25.46.868665.bob-main.ful) containing nine files. Apparently, like Conezilla, SBackup stores its backups as multiple files in a suitably named directory. *Unlike* Clonezilla, though, there doesn't

Moving on to the **Destination** tab, I *unchecked* **Use default backup directory /home/bob/.local/share/sbackup/backups**. Then I checked **Use custom local backup directory** and selected **Expansion Drive** (my 2 TB USB Expansion Drive) from the list of choices offered. Because I *always* turn off my computers when they're not in use, SBackup's **Schedule** tab has nothing that I'd want; but it's there for people who need it. The same for the **Purging** tab. Next, on the **Report** tab, under **Logging**, I changed the **Log file directory** from **log** to **Expansion Drive**. After that, I moved up to the five icons at the top of the window. I only needed two of them. First, I clicked on the **Save configuration** icon. Following that I clicked on the **Make a backup now** icon. Another window popped up, asking "Create a backup now?" I clicked its **Yes** button, and we were off.

A small icon appeared in the top right corner of my screen, looking similar to the "Save" icon used by several of my other programs. However, I *don't* consider it to be much of a "Status" indicator. When

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seem to be any way for the user to specify that name. (At least, nothing that I was clever enough to find). Eight of those nine files measured 44.3 KB or less. Only one (files.tar) was "super sized", measuring 36.0 GB. (The tar (tape archive) file format was originally developed in the early days of UNIX, for use with tape backup devices. Over time, it morphed into a way to assemble many files into a single archive file. Think of it as an ancestor of ZIP files).

For my second backup, I only had to make two changes in the **Simple Backup Suite** window. On the **General** tab, I changed **Compression format** from **none** to **gzip**; and on the **Include** tab, under **Included files and directories**, I changed **/media/I\_DRIVE** to **/media/J\_DRIVE**. According to its log, my second backup took 1 hour, 44 minutes and 43 seconds. Again, on my Expansion Drive, I found a new directory (named 2012-02-11\_07.46.57.285784.bob-main.ful) containing nine files. Of those files, only one (files.tar.gz) was relatively enormous, measuring 37.8 GB. For my third backup, I changed from **gzip** to **bzip2**; and

from `/media/J_DRIVE` to `/media/K_DRIVE`. I started that particular backup at two thirty in the afternoon, and it just kept going and going.

I knew that bzip2, being the highest compression level, would take longer than the others, but I had absolutely no idea *how much* longer. I checked on it every hour or so for the rest of the afternoon, all through the evening and into the night. It wasn't until the next morning that it *finally* stopped. According to its log file, my third backup had taken an incredible **16** hours, 22 minutes and 13 seconds! Once more, on my Expansion Drive, I found a new directory (this time named 2012-02-11\_14.30.41.396451.bob-main.full) containing nine files. As before, only one of those files (files.tar.bz2) was huge, measuring 39.6 GB. Considering that my Expansion Drive still has 1.6 TB free, and that compression added *hours* of backup time for much, much *less* than spectacular results, it seems that (for me, at least) compression is *out* from now on.

Assuming that I go with SBackup at all, that is. Now we've come to the "moment of truth": Could my

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suggest "You're going to make a *new* backup, and this is where you'll put it"; but that first interpretation is the right one, while that second interpretation is just flat out *wrong!!!* However, I'll bet that a lot of first time users get confused here. *My* suggestion would be to replace **Backup destination** with **Location of previous backups**. That would "tell it like it is". Below those words are choices for "Default profile's destination" or "Custom destination". I accepted the default because it already listed my Expansion Drive. Below those choices is a calendar, with the message "Select a bold printed date to get the list of backups for that date". On that calendar, only the 11<sup>th</sup> was in bold, so I clicked on it. My screen flickered for a second, but *nothing else seemed to happen*. (Something *had* actually happened, of course. I just *couldn't see it*).

There was a slide bar at the bottom of the window, so I moved it back and forth; but again, *nothing* seemed to happen. There *wasn't* a slide bar on the side of the window, so I *couldn't* move the window's contents up and down. However, I soon became convinced that was exactly what I needed to do. So I

three backups be accurately restored? For these next tests, I removed my 320 GB data hard disk, and substituted an empty 80 GB hard disk in its place. I formatted it, and gave it the volume label TARGET. Then, from the **Accessories** sub-menu of my **Applications** drop-down menu, I selected SBackup's other option, **Simple Backup-Restoration**. That brought up another window labeled **Simple Backup Suite**; but its contents were completely different from the earlier **Simple Backup Suite** window that we discussed above. Like that previous window, though, this one came up in an *unmaximized* state (occupying about half the width of my monitor's screen, and about two thirds of its height). However, this time, as you'll see shortly, its opening size *mattered*.

Before we get to that, though, I have a quibble about grammar. The first things you see at the top of the window, in bold type, are the words **Backup destination**. Now, those words *are* literally correct; but to me, at least, they *don't* imply "This is where your previous backups are stored". Instead, they

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maximized the window; and when it completely filled my screen, I saw that there *were*, in fact, more selections below the calendar. (I don't know about you, but *I* certainly consider that non-existent slide bar to be a bug). In the "Available backups" box, the date and time based names for my three backups were displayed. So I clicked on the earliest one, and then clicked on **Restoration Management**. Under "Path" in the "Snapshot details" box, I saw `/media/I_DRIVE`. So I clicked on it; but then, since I *didn't* want to restore my backup to its original partition, I clicked on the **Restore as...** button instead of the **Restore** button. A "Select restore location" window popped up, allowing me to switch to `/media/TARGET`. When I did, a smaller window popped up, asking me "Do you really want to restore backed up copy of '/media/I\_DRIVE' to '/media/TARGET'?" (That "backed up" was *their* spelling, *NOT* mine). When I clicked its **Yes** button, yet another small window popped up, telling me that "Restoring of '/media/I\_DRIVE' to '/media/TARGET' is in progress". It also contained an animated slider moving back and forth, but *no* "Elapsed Time",

“Remaining Time”, or “% Completed” indicators. Finally, when it was done, it changed its message to “Restoring of '/media/I\_DRIVE' to '/media/TARGET' was successful”; and at least it *did*, in fact, remain displayed on the screen until I told it to go away, by clicking on its **Close** button.

My first restoration took 28 minutes and 34 seconds, my second took 2 hours, 3 minutes and 27 seconds, and my third took **9** hours, 7 minutes and 57 seconds. After each restoration, I checked its MD5 file with MD5Summer.exe. Each time, all of the restored files compared exactly. Out of curiosity, I re-did the J\_DRIVE and K\_DRIVE backups with *no* compression. The second J backup took 42 minutes and 39 seconds (compared to 1 hour, 44 minutes and 43 seconds for the original), and the second K backup took 43 minutes and 27 seconds (compared to **16** hours, 22 minutes and 13 seconds for the original). J produced a files.tar measuring 45.5 GB (compared to its earlier (gzip compressed) files.tar.gz of 37.8 GB). For K, it was a new files.tar of 45.6 GB (versus its old (bzip2 compressed) files.tar.bz2 of

39.6 GB). I also restored this second set of backups as well. My repeat restorations took 27 minutes and 9 seconds for J, and 33 minutes and 16 seconds for K (compared to 2 hours, 3 minutes, 27 seconds, and **9** hours, 7 minutes, 57 seconds, respectively). Afterwards, I checked both repeats with MD5Summer.exe. Except for the exceptions noted in the paragraph after next, *all* of the restored files compared equally.

Math fans among you might have noticed that the two *uncompressed* files.tar created by my two repeat backups measured 45.5 GB and 45.6 GB, while the *total* capacity of each of their source partitions (which you may remember from *way* above) was only 43.2 GB, and their “used” figures were 42.4 GB and 42.5 GB, respectively. This anomaly *isn't* a mistake. Rather, it's the result of “mistranslation”. I got those smaller figures from GParted (the Gnome Partition Editor), which reports its results in hexadecimal Gigabytes (multiples of 1024, sometimes known as Gibabytes, and sometimes abbreviated as GiB instead of GB). I got those larger

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measurements from Nautilus (the Gnome file manager), which reports its results in *decimal* Gigabytes (multiples of 1000, always abbreviated as GB). Using my calculator, I “translated” those figures, and got 42.38 GB and 42.47 GB. Much closer. In fact, if we assume that GParted rounded each of its figures upward, they *both* match exactly. (As, indeed, they should). If only GParted and Nautilus were more consistent, this confusion would never have happened.

Out of additional curiosity, when I made my repeat K\_DRIVE backup above, I also *re-entered iso* on SBackup's **Exclude** tab. K\_DRIVE contained five ISO files, and for three of them, the file extensions were in lower case letters (Linux CD/DVD images that I'd downloaded: linuxmint-11-gnome-cd-nocodecs-32bit.iso, linuxmint-11-gnome-dvd-32bit.iso, and linuxmint-12-gnome-dvd-32bit.iso). After restoration, those three files *were*, indeed, missing from my TARGET drive. However, the two ISO files with extensions in *upper* case letters *had*, in fact, been backed up and then restored.

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(NL09\_CD.ISO and NL\_CD\_11.ISO, images that I myself created when making our first two “Newsletter Collection” CDs). How about that? I guess that my being a hidebound, reactionary old fogey who likes to use good old DOS compatible file names can occasionally have its advantages. (However, I *am* still going to report this *non-exclusion* to the SBackup authors as another bug).

As for conclusions, let's look at compression first. From my (admittedly limited) test samples above, using gzip compression added 1 hour, 2 minutes and 4 seconds to my backup time, and resulted in only a 16.9% reduction in backup size, while bzip2 added an additional **15** hours, 38 minutes and 46 seconds for a mere 13.2% reduction. Furthermore, using gzip added 1 hour, 36 minutes and 18 seconds to its restore time, while using bzip2 added **8** hours, 34 minutes and 41 seconds to *its* restore time. That resulted in total backup plus restore “penalties” of 2 hours, 38 minutes and 18 seconds for using gzip, and **24** hours, 13 minutes and 27 seconds for using bzip2. *An entire day!!!* Now, quite a lot of the files in my



data partitions had *already* been compressed, so that *did* cut down on my reduction percentages; but for me (obviously), and I'd guess for most other users as well, *no* compression is definitely the way to go.

For several years now, I've been using Clonezilla to back up my Operating System hard disks, and I've come to trust it implicitly. I've also been using Clonezilla to back up the partitions in my data hard disk, even though that *isn't* what Clonezilla was designed for. As I've said many times before, I've *never* found a data backup program that I liked as much as Colorado Backup for DOS; and SBackup is no exception. My overall impression is that its operation is too "dumbed down" for my tastes. I especially *don't* like the way that it didn't give me any say when creating names for my backups, as

well as its pretty much useless "Status" indicators; but at least its log file gave me most of the information I wanted, even if I didn't get it until "after the fact". I know how to "work around" the two bugs and a quibble that I mentioned above; and it *will* work in the background while I'm using my computer to do other things. (Clonezilla *can't* do that).

SBackup was the first Linux data backup program that "reached out and grabbed me". Even though it doesn't do things exactly the way I want, it *does* work. So I'll continue to play with it. Maybe I'll get used to it. Or maybe someday, out of the literally *thousands* of Linux programs out there, I'll find one that does everything *my way!* (Cue Frank Sinatra).

See you next month. ☞

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## **Commentary - President's Corner: An End to the "Tablet Takeover"?**

*Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood UG, CA*

*Newsletter: Drive Light ([www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)) president (at) uchug.org*

It's been an eventful time for computer news. First we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the introduction of the IBM PC. Though "personal" computers were already available, when the IBM PC came on the market, it started the adoption of this technology by business and individuals. A week after the PC anniversary, HP announced it was discontinuing its TouchPad tablet and apparently abandoning the tablet market. Sales of the \$499 device touted as an "iPad killer" were slow until they were given a close-out price of \$99, at which point they flew off the store shelves. Then Steve Jobs, the mastermind behind Apple's iPad, as well as iPod, iPhone, iTunes and most things "i", passed away; and Tim Cook, his recommended successor, took the helm.

All these events make me think the predictions of the death of the PC and the takeover by tablets are at least premature and possibly downright wrong. Traditional computer manufacturers have seen a slip in sales and have been working on their own tablets, but I think a device that has lasted 30 years in the market is not ready to be replaced yet. Tablets bring a lot of great features to the table, but they appear to be more of a niche performer. The current tablet craze may well turn out to be similar to that of the

netbook a few years ago, introducing a new kind of computing tool that adds to the arsenal, but cannot supplant the traditional laptop and desktop.

I do believe the tablet computer concept is a good one, so much so that I bought one. Though I call my Velocity Micro Cruz Reader a poor man's iPad, it is really just an e-reader that can surf the web, get email and display color pictures and video. At only \$120, it is certainly not a substitute for a laptop PC, but to me, neither is a \$500 iPad nor other manufacturer's similar Android tablets. The 12.1" Asus eeeSlate tablet PC, which has an Intel Core i5 processor and runs Windows 7 might be a substitute for a traditional PC (with the tablet's external keyboard), but it also costs \$1000. To take a bigger chunk out of the PC market, tablets will have to be lower in price. To take over the PC market, they will have to be as capable as a laptop or desktop, a tall order for a device based so much on portability.

Right now, the notebook computer or laptop is the king of computer value. The current back to school advertisements show a lot of capable laptops (even with Intel Core i5 processors) for around \$500. There used to be a premium paid for the mobility of a laptop as compared to a desktop PC, but now a similar desktop setup costs more. Since 2005 there

have been more laptops than desktops sold in the U.S., and at our Microsoft Store tour last year their staff reported laptop sales at 80% of the total computer sales. Those economies of scale in manufacturing have no doubt allowed laptop prices to be reduced below desktop prices.

At \$500 for a decent laptop, a \$500 tablet computer does not make much sense, either as a substitute or complement to the notebook PC. This was certainly proven out by the HP TouchPad being discontinued. HP had problems selling them at \$500, but one can only wonder how many could have been sold for \$99, were they willing to manufacture more at a loss. The correct price point to me for tablets would seem to be no more than \$250; that is where the Barnes & Noble Nook Color (Reader Tablet) is priced. Amazon would do well to keep that in mind if the rumors of a future emailing and web surfing Kindle are true.

How does Apple sell so many iPads for \$500 or more? I think there must be a lot of people out there with more expendable income than I have. I admit

I’ve never used an iPad, and don’t know anyone that has one, but based on experience with those I know that own the iPhone, the iPad is probably quite good as products go.

Apple’s products are usually innovative and ahead of their time, and remind me of hybrid and electric vehicles. They are technically advanced and forward thinking, copied by their competitors and carry a premium price, but often don’t make economic sense initially when compared to existing products. There will soon be a lot of electric and hybrid cars on the market, but they are all so expensive that unless gas gets well over \$5 a gallon, a conventional gasoline-powered economy car is still a better overall value.

I was able to participate in a GM-sponsored event this month in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot, where I got to drive a lot of different new cars (with no sales pressure). The Corvette and Camaro were fun to drive, but the most interesting ride was undoubtedly the Chevy Volt. In my opinion it blows all the existing and near-term hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles away. The Volt is a plug-in electric

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car (wheels driven by electric motors which are powered by a battery charged by external 110 or 220 VAC), but it also has a gasoline-powered generator to provide electricity for driving when the battery is low. Unlike the Nissan Leaf, a plug-in electric with no gas engine, the Volt can be driven across the country like a gasoline-powered car if there is no time or place to plug in. Unlike the Toyota Prius hybrid which can’t be recharged from external power, it can operate on battery alone at all speeds for trips within its battery’s range. The Volt is the future for electric cars. No matter how much I like it, however, I’d never own one, because they cost \$40K. They can call me when they get the price down to \$25K.

Apple can call me when they offer the iPad for \$250.

The tablet’s strength is in bringing portability to web access and graphical media. Without a real keyboard, however, I can’t imagine using any tablet as my primary computer. Writing this column on a touchscreen would be a big pain; the times I wrote it in a car on a laptop were painful enough. I admit I

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once thought a laptop keyboard was a lot harder to type on than a full desktop keyboard (and I don’t do touch typing). Now of course a lot of businesspeople use a laptop as their primary computer. I know typing a lot on my netbook is a pain, and its smaller display screen makes for difficult reading by older eyes; a tablet computer display would be similar. While I suppose I could perform graphical tasks like photo and video editing, create large documents or file my tax return on my netbook, I wouldn’t want to if a computer with a larger display was available.

In my view, the tablet PC is good for consumption of media (photos, videos, music, web pages), but its smaller screen size and lack of a keyboard make it less useful for the creation of such material. A tablet might be acceptable for email, but it wouldn’t be so great for creating an important document like a resume. The market for tablets will thus be limited to content consumers, while content creators will still prefer traditional PCs.

The final problem with the tablet’s takeover is its competition from the smartphone. While portability



is the tablet's big advantage over all forms of the traditional PC, the smartphone has it beat there. You can carry an iPhone in your pocket, but you need a case or bag to take an iPad.

While I'm hoping the tablet continues to develop and evolve as an alternative computing platform, especially if it can come down in price, I don't see a way that it can take the place of the laptop or desktop computer in general business or personal

usage anytime soon.

And I'd like to remind those of you out there with Apple stock that the company did not do so well between 1985 and 1996, while Steve Jobs was absent. His shoes will be hard to fill.

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## **Free Services and Software for Digital Photographers**

*Ira Wilsker*

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.advancedphotography.net/20-free-tools-photographers>

<http://www.irfanview.com>

<http://www.vicman.net/lightartist/>

<http://pho.to/>

<http://funny.pho.to/>

<http://www.gimp.org/downloads>

<http://picasa.google.com>

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/pc/image-tools.html>

<http://mashable.com/2007/07/23/online-media>

<http://www.diyphotography.net/32-free-software-solutions-for-photographers>

A quick visit to the big box electronics stores will show an incontrovertible fact about photography; for household (and even much professional) use, digital photography has overwhelmed film photography.

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Notice how even the typical corner drug store, once the primary drop off point for developing family snapshots, now offers in-house digital printing as its primary photographic service, rather than sending out film for processing. Even the renowned giant of the film industry, Kodak, may be approaching its demise as the demand for traditional photographic film and related services had dropped below the fiscal point of continued viability. When my kids were little decades ago, I exclusively used my Canon A-1 35mm camera, with its myriad of sophisticated lenses, to take albums of photos of my kids as they were growing up. When they were young, they had the ubiquitous 110 cameras, progressing to 35mm point-and-shoot cameras. It was not unusual for me to drop up to a dozen rolls of assorted film off at a local store for processing, especially when we knew that one of our local independent supermarkets periodically offered deeply discounted photo finishing as a loss leader in order to bring customers into the store twice - once to drop it off, and again a few days later to pick up the processed film and prints.

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I will be honest and disclose that it has been about a dozen years or so since I last dropped off a roll of film for processing, as I have gone totally digital for my personal photographic needs. My first digital camera, which was very expensive in the mid 1990's, was a .3 (point-three) megapixel, 640x480, JVC camera, with a 10x optical zoom lens. My newest digital camera, purchased recently for less than half of what I paid for that old JVC, has a 14 megapixel image capability, with an 18x optical and 6x digital zoom, and can record HD video as well as take high quality still images. It is not just amateurs like me using digital cameras instead of film cameras; at my daughters' recent weddings, both the professional wedding photographers and videographers used digital cameras.

Now that digital photography is the well established norm, there is an abundance of services and software available to enable us to crop, edit, improve, add special effects, and otherwise improve our digital imagery. For about 10 years I have been using what may arguably be the most widely used, free, digital image editing software available, Irfanview

([irfanview.com](http://irfanview.com)). According to the Irfanview website, since 2003 over a million copies of Irfanview have been downloaded every month; using simple arithmetic, that would be over 100 million copies, and that is only the count from a few (3 or 4) of the major download websites, and does not include the dozens of secondary download websites, or copies passed among individuals. As I had several times before reviewed Irfanview in this column, it should not take much of a reminder that it is an extremely powerful and capable image editor that can read, edit, convert, and write almost every known image format. In its basic form, Irfanview is simple enough for a novice to use, but by utilizing its advanced features, Irfanview has the power and features to successfully compete against its high-priced commercial competitors. For personal and academic use, the full featured Irfanview is totally free, but for commercial and professional use a license is a most modest \$12.

There are many other excellent image editing utilities available, many of them also for free. One

very popular free image editor is GIMP ([gimp.org](http://gimp.org)), which is an acronym for **GNU Image Manipulation Program**. It is a freely distributed program for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It has many capabilities. It can be used as a simple paint program, an expert quality photo retouching program, an online batch processing system, a mass production image renderer, an image format converter, etc. GIMP will run under Windows, on a MAC, or on UNIX based machines.

Google offers Picasa ([picasa.google.com](http://picasa.google.com)) as its free photo editor, which according to Google, “(can) organize, edit, and share your photos.” As is to be expected from Google, Picasa is full featured and powerful, and can be as simple or as sophisticated to use as desired by the user. Picasa can, “Make simple edits -- such as cropping, straightening, removing redeye, retouching blemishes, or adding text -- to your photos. Or click “I’m Feeling Lucky” to try Picasa’s all-in-one lighting and contrast fix.” That “I’m Feeling Lucky” button will automatically

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determine what may be needed to improve a digital image, and automatically apply about a half-dozen fixes and improvements to the image, with the user being free to accept or reject the changes. The user can also select up to a dozen special effects, and implement another dozen “Picnik” special effects that can convert an image using a variety of other special effects. For those who may be concerned about losing the original image, Google says, “Don’t worry -- Picasa always preserves your original photo. The photo edits you make are only viewable in Picasa until you decide to save your changes. Even then, Picasa creates a new version of the photo with your edits applied, leaving the original totally preserved.”

Some digital photographers like to experiment with their images, and try a variety of artistic effects. One popular effect is to change the lighting on an image, and VicMan’s Light Artist (free, [www.vicman.net/lightartist](http://www.vicman.net/lightartist)) can “add realistic lighting effects to your photos. You can modify the light color, add multiple light sources, change the

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surface qualities of the image and add various ambient illumination effects.” A companion website, [www.pho.to](http://www.pho.to), offers free online photo editing and special effects, including Smart Fix, a one click, comprehensive, digital photo enhancement. Other free services offered by Pho.To include an image touch up utility, a variety of specialty tools and filters, the ability to convert photos into animated avatars for gaming and other activities, convert images and faces into cartoons, and the capability to utilize over 400 frames and templates. These 400+ frames and templates ([funny.pho.to](http://funny.pho.to)) are a lot of fun to experiment with, as the user can bring a selected image into seasonal templates, calendars, montages, paintings, magazine covers, celebrity collages, photo frames, face photo montages, human-to-animal montages (put a human face on an animal body), cartoons, money (put a face on paper currency), zodiac signs, and monster effects.

There are many more online and mostly free utilities and services available to the digital photographer, and several online directories have compiled

comprehensive lists of these services. Even though it is over four years old, "ONLINE MEDIA GOD: 400+ Tools for Photographers, Videobloggers, Podcasters & Musicians", available at [mashable.com/2007/07/23/online-media](http://mashable.com/2007/07/23/online-media), offers one of the most comprehensive directories of online editing services as well as image and video software utilities. "32 Free Software Solutions For Photographers" provides information and links about free image editing software at [www.diyphotography.net/32-free-software-solutions-for-photographers](http://www.diyphotography.net/32-free-software-solutions-for-photographers). Another website, 20 Free And Useful Tools For Photographers, online at [www.advancedphotography.net/20-free-tools-photographers](http://www.advancedphotography.net/20-free-tools-photographers) contains an up-to-date lists of image editing and enhancement

utilities. One of my personal favorite resources where I can always find the latest image utilities along with community ratings and recommendations is Gizmo's The Best Free Image View and Edit Software for PC:

[www.techsupportalert.com/pc/image-tools.html](http://www.techsupportalert.com/pc/image-tools.html).

While I prefer to use Irfanview for almost all of my image editing, I also have the most fun creating unusual images from the hundreds of templates at [funny.pho.to](http://funny.pho.to). It does not matter if the digital photographer is a greenhorn novice or an accomplished professional, there are some excellent free resources and utilities available to make the most basic digital snapshot into a work of art that can be cherished forever. 🖨

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## Disks - What would our computers be without them?

*Phil Sorrentino, President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida*

*Newsletter: Sarasota PC Monitor ([www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org)) president (at) [spcug.org](mailto:spcug.org)*

Well, they'd be Tablets, or Smartphones, neither of which have disks as integral parts of the hardware. The Disk or Disk Drive usually refers to the

component of the computer that typically stores large amounts of data. Storage can be, only readable, or readable and writeable (or recordable). There are

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two types of Disk Drives that are usually part of a Personal Computer, Magnetic and Optical. Magnetic drives are typically readable and writable. Now-a-days, magnetic drives store in the hundreds of Gigabytes (1 Gigabyte = 1,000 Megabytes). Optical drives are either readable (ROM) or recordable (RAM). Optical drives come in three different storage sizes, CDs (Compact Disks) which hold 700 Megabytes, DVDs (Digital Versatile Disks) which hold 4.7 Gigabytes, and BDs (Blu-ray Disks) which hold 25 Gigabytes.

Magnetic Disks or Magnetic Disk Drives, or Hard Drives, (can any of you remember the term, Winchester Drive), are at the very core of the personal computer. For those of you who remembered "Winchester", the original IBM PC didn't even have a hard drive. It only had one or possibly two 5 ¼ inch floppy disks. Remember the a: drive? And I bet there are only a few of you who ever had a b: drive (the second floppy).

The hard drive came along around 1983, with the IBM PC/XT, and was assigned as the c: drive. Then

came Optical drives, the CD ROM (around 1985), and the recordable version, the CD RAM (around 1990). These were typically assigned as the d: drive. Finally, The DVD came on the scene with backward compatibility with CDs. The DVD ROM appeared around 1995 and the DVD RAM around 1998. DVD equipment is backward compatible meaning they can use DVD or CD media (the actual disk). BDs are relatively new, coming on the scene around 2009. The BDs come in BD R which is recordable only once, and BD RE which is recordable and re-recordable. BD equipment is backward compatible meaning they can use BD, DVD or CD media.

Specifying a magnetic disk drive is pretty straightforward. The only variables are the storage capacity and the speed. Today, typically, the speed is 7200 rpm. Although there are some older units around that rotate at 5400 rpm, and there are some fast drives that are running at 10,000 rpm, but they are the exception. So, the defining item is the storage capacity, which today runs from 100 Gigabytes to a few Terabytes (1Terabyte = 1,000 Gigabytes). Once

the manufacturer is chosen and the speed and storage is picked, the job is about done. The only other factor is the interface. SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment), today, is the preferred interface, but only if your computer has the hardware to support it. The older interface is called IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics), and sometimes called PATA (Parallel Advanced Technology Attachment).

Specifying Optical Disks is somewhat more involved. The first decision is the storage capacity. Today, DVD drives are probably the most cost effective (the best storage per dollar). Because DVD drives are backwards compatible they can be used with DVDs or CDs. BD drives are currently quite expensive and will probably not be found on most personal computers. BD drives will probably be around \$100 in contrast to about \$35 for a DVD drive. If you have only one DVD drive on your computer, it should probably be a drive that is capable of writing disks as well as reading them. If you have the luxury of two optical drives (probably on a desktop), one can be just readable, which will keep the cost of the pair to a minimum. Optical

Drives that are capable of writing are sometimes called “Burners” because the writing operation uses a laser to “burn” data spots on to the disk media.

The round 120 millimeter (4.7 inch) disk that you insert into the Optical Disk drive is called the disk media. The media type should match the Disk Drive type, meaning that you typically use CD media in a CD Drive, DVD media in a DVD drive, and BD media in a BD drive, although there is backward compatibility. For Optical disk media, readable means that the disk can be written only once and then read many times; read/writable means that the disk is readable and can be written and re-written many times. CD disk media comes in two types, CD-R (readable), and CD-RW (read/writable). Unfortunately, DVD disk media comes in two disk varieties DVD- (the dash variety), and DVD+ (the plus variety), as well as being readable or read/writable. The good news is that, now-a-days, all drives can use either of these varieties. (Although, I have heard that some people prefer the DVD- for movies. They have reported better results with that variety for movies that were created on the computer

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DVD disk drive and then played on their living room DVD player.) So, typically, DVD Drives can accommodate DVD-R (read only), DVD-RW (read/writable), DVD+R (read only), or DVD+RW (read/writeable) media. This is usually indicated by stating that the drive can be used with DVD±R disk media (readable), or DVD±RW (read/writable) media. Fortunately, BD disk media does not have the same problem. There is only one variety for BD disks, BD-: BD-R (readable), and BD-RE (read/writable).

Now that we have chosen an optical disk drive based on storage capacity, and we now know what media we can use with the drive, the last thing to look at is the speed of the drive. For Drives that only read, this is not really an issue because the read speed is typically faster than any of the writing speeds. An Optical Drive writing speed is specified as #X. Currently, for DVDs, # is a number between 1 and 52. This number indicates the speed relative to the original disk writing speed. So an Optical Disk capable of writing at 12X would write a disk 12

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times faster than the original writing speed. The original writing speeds for the different Optical Drive types are: CD=.15Mbps; DVD=1.35Mbps; BD=4.5Mbps. So a 12X DVD Drive would write data at 12 times 1.35Mbps, or 16.2Mbps. Optical Disk media is also rated for writing speed in the same way. When you buy Optical Disk media it is always good to buy media that is at least as fast as your drive so that you take advantage of your drive's maximum speed. If it is not at a great expense, faster media will probably give you better, although not faster results.

Disk drives, magnetic and optical, give the computer the ability to store and access enormous amounts of data. Without these devices we might be confined to only using the “cloud” for our storage (do any of you remember “mainframe” computing?). But, even with these devices, they may be the direction personal computing is taking, anyway.

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## Building a PC

*Dick Maybach, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ*  
*Newsletter: BUG Bytes ([www.bcug.com](http://www.bcug.com)) n2nd (at) charter.net*

There are several reasons why you might want to do this: you may be an experienced user with definite ideas about what you want; you may like to tinker and want a system that is easy to change; or you may want to save money by cannibalizing old systems. You probably won't save money, because you will probably use higher-quality and higher-performance parts than do PC system manufacturers. You will learn how PCs are assembled (but not how they work), which means that your computer will be easy to expand.

If you are building a new system, I highly recommend the book *Building the Perfect PC*, by Robert and Barbara Thompson, which describes six different PC designs, one of which is probably close to what you have in mind. They discuss system design and component selection, as well as the construction process, and recommend specific manufacturers and vendors. This is by far the best book I've read on the topic, and it's worth a scan at

your local bookstore, even if you have no plans to build anything. You may find, as I did, that it will inspire you to get busy. There is just one caveat; although the book was copyrighted in 2011, technology has advanced, and there are superior replacements for many of the components they recommend.

If you are interested in the repair and refurbishment of older PCs, get a copy of *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* by Scott Mueller. This costs twice as much as the Thompson's book and is four times the size, but its scope is comprehensive. This isn't a set of step-by-step instructions, but is more of a PC reference book; as a result, you can expect to do some heavy slogging.

For the remainder of the article, I'll assume you are building a new PC with modern, high-quality components. (While it's interesting to assemble a system on the cheap, using no-name components, it will be difficult to build and perhaps unreliable.) The

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project will have four phases (1) system design, (2) parts orders, (3) construction, and (4) software installation and configuration, with system design taking the longest, typically longer than the other three combined.

You will first select the CPU. Both Intel and AMD make excellent products, but each has different strengths. (See the Thompson's book for the details.) I prefer Intel, because over the years I've had only good experiences with their CPUs and motherboards. Intel's website is invaluable in helping you to pick the CPU that best fits your needs. You can read not only data sheets on particular models, but also download white papers on their technology. The site will also assemble tables that compare several CPUs, which makes it easy to see their differences. Years ago, we compared CPU performance by looking at just their clock rates, but today with such advanced features as multiple cores and multi-threading, this is no longer appropriate.

Once you have a CPU candidate, the Intel site can recommend a matching Intel motherboard. (Gigabyte

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and ASUS also make excellent motherboards and would probably be your choice for an AMD CPU.) Again, letting the Intel site build a comparison table will help your selection process. You should design more than one system; perhaps what you think you want, one with lower cost and performance, and one with higher. Keeping three balls in the air will help prevent you from making your final judgment too early. You should now download the manuals for all the motherboards you are considering. (The one I chose for my project was 88 pages, which was quite a nice change from the postcard-sized sheets we used to get with motherboards sold at computer shows.) Studying these manuals will help you select the best motherboard for your use.

Before going further with the electronics, you should consider cases, which must fit your motherboard. I used one from Antec on my project, and I'm very impressed with it, although I've also used Lian Li cases, most of which are aluminum models and hence are relatively light. If you have size constraints, you may find that you need a



motherboard that is smaller than the standard ATX size. A small system box appears desirable, but be realistic; usually you can find room for a full-sized case on the floor and the cramped interior of a compact one makes it difficult to assemble and often noisy to cool. Again, download the manuals for any cases you are considering and eliminate any units for which good manuals are not available. My Antec case manual had 13 pages (again a nice contrast to the single sheet we would get for computer show cases).

Loop through the CPU-motherboard-case selection process as many times as needed to be sure you have sensible designs for the core components before you continue on to the other parts. For RAM, I prefer Crucial, but Kingston and Corsair are also good. Entering your motherboard model on Crucial's Website will result in a good recommendation, but check against your motherboard manual to be sure. Since most motherboards include quite capable integral sound and display controllers, you won't need expansion cards for these functions unless you

have special requirements. I've had good luck with Seagate drives and always use these. Removable drives are a bit of a problem, since price considerations have driven high-quality products off the market (the Wal-Mart effect). Fortunately DVD drives are cheap and easily replaced. (Don't even consider a diskette drive, as the quality of the few available models is extremely poor; many are dead on delivery, and so cheap that they are not worth returning. You probably can't get around this by using an old drive, since it probably has an IDE interface and modern motherboards have only SATA ones. Although IDE expansion cards are available, their quality too is very poor.) The only remaining internal component is the power supply, which I've left until last because you need to know how much power the other components require and what power connectors they use. Consider units from Antec, PC Power & Cooling, and Seasonic.

The most important external component is the display, where you shouldn't be stingy on the size, although it does have to fit within the space on your

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desk. I chose an ASUS one, but NEC, Samsung, and ViewSonic are also good. I think that the reliability of those with an LED backlights is worth the small premium price over units with fluorescent backlights. Keyboards and mice are commodity products, but I prefer Logitech and Microsoft over the slightly cheaper no-name alternatives. Don't count on reusing your old keyboard and mouse; they probably have PS/2 connectors, and new motherboards have only USB ones. Finally, I like Logitech speakers.

Many components are available either as consumer or OEM (original equipment manufacturer) parts. Consumer parts typically come in a package with instructions, mounting hardware and cables, a guarantee, and access to the manufacturers help line, while OEM parts include none of these. Also OEM components are frequently stripped down to reduce their costs; as a result they may have fewer features and lower performance than the consumer versions. For example, consumer CPUs include a cooler designed for that unit, while OEM CPUs do not.

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Usually, getting the consumer model is worth the small added cost. It appears that hard disks are available only on an OEM basis, which means it's important to buy them from a reputable manufacturer.

Up to now, you've only spent your time, but this changes when you order parts. I've had very good luck with Amazon and Newegg, but neither is perfect. Many items on Amazon's Website are sold directly by them, but for others they are just an agent for another company and here you must be careful. I had one of these companies try to charge me \$200 shipping on a \$30 expansion card. When I complained to Amazon, they were not the least bit embarrassed, saying that they took no responsibility for the unethical behavior of third parties. With Newegg you have to be careful in placing your order; their process is not as refined as Amazon's, and in particular it's easy to place your order twice. With both, check the shipping costs carefully. Having said that, I prefer to deal with these two companies when I order electronics. A very valuable feature of both sites is the customer reviews. Ignore



the numerical ratings, which mean little, but carefully read the comments, where it is easy to identify the balanced, knowledgeable comments from the petty whines.

While you are waiting for the parts to arrive, print out all the manuals you've downloaded, because once you unpack the boxes you will find only quick-start guides. The only tools you will probably need are Phillips and flat-head screwdrivers. I also use a wrist-band to discharge static electricity (available from Radio Shack), but you can skip this if you are careful. (See the Thompson's book.) An experienced user can assemble a new PC in about an hour, but expect to take longer since you will probably have to do some things several times to get them right. I find that after an hour or so, I need a break, preferably until the following day. Often, during the break I will think of something I should have done differently. Some steps can be tricky; it took me three tries to get my motherboard installed in the case correctly, even though I've built several PCs. In any case, take your

time; it's supposed to be fun, and if in doubt take a break.

For prove-in I prefer an Ubuntu live CD-ROM, which doesn't use the hard disks at all and lets you check out your new hardware before you spend time installing an operating system. Who knows, you may find you like it well enough to set up your PC to run both Linux and Windows.

Your last step is to place all the packing slips, receipts, installation DVDs, manuals (both those included with the parts and those you downloaded) into a large envelope, place all the parts and cables you didn't need in a single box, and label both. If you later expand the system or add software to it, store the paper, DVDs, and extra parts in the same envelope and box. This will make upgrades and repairs much, much easier.

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## Copyleft

*Cal Esneault, President of CCCC (Cajun Clickers Computer Club)*

*Also leader of many Open Source Workshops and SIGs*

*Newsletter: Cajun Clickers Computer News ([www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org)) ccnewsletter (at) cox.net*

We are all familiar with the term “copyright”. This is where a government grants to the creator of an original creative work certain exclusive rights to its distribution and use in return for the public disclosure of the work. There is usually a time period for this protection (for example, life of the author plus 75 years). Common examples are art work, photographs, and music. With a few exceptions (such as “fair use”), the copyright owners have strict control over the copying and distribution of such work unless they grant exceptions or specific permissions.

Although there is debate over the details, computer software can also be covered under copyright law. This can be more restrictive than patent law since “inventions” establishing patents require a more extensive proof of originality and usefulness and last for a shorter period of time (about 20 years). Proprietary software distributors solve any ambiguities by having users forfeit most of their rights immediately by requiring End-Use License

Agreements (EULA's).

Originators of the concept of Free and Open Software (FOSS) wanted to ensure that their free work and any subsequent derivatives would have legal standing to continue to be free in the future. They created the play on-words term “copyleft” for using copyright law to provide copyrights which ensured the free distribution of their work and any derivatives thereof. This gained the term “viral” protection since, with certain legal language, any product which contained any part of this open code would render the entire project to be free and open. Thus, this piece of code would propagate like a “virus” and infect any piece of proprietary code.

The first widespread use of copyleft was conducted by Richard Stallman for the GNU General Public License (GPL). There have been several GPL versions:

1. GPLv1 (1989)
2. GPLv2 (1991)
3. GPLv3 (2001)

In general, they allow the license recipient the right to use, study, copy, share, and modify the original code. Users must acknowledge the original author and distribute any modified software under the same restrictions obtained from the original license. The GPL license is the mainstay of Linux systems. The author has the right to have only parts of the software covered, or extend other limitations. The concept is that anyone using this “free” software is bound by its initial conditions as a minimum requirement.

There are alternatives to the copyleft approach. Copyright owners may freely give their rights away (“public domain”), or they may grant only certain rights (“permissive” restrictions). For example, Apache and BSD have permissive licenses, and, users may use this free software and then combine it with their own software to create a new proprietary work. This, for example, is how Mac OS uses an earlier open version of a Unix-type OS with their own handiwork to create their own proprietary operating system (which, of course, you readily

agree to by checking acceptance of the EULA!).

To protect the legacy of open software, the Free Software Foundation (FSF) was created in 1985 to ensure compliance with copyright protection established to maintain the open software conditions. They have attorneys to take legal action against anyone not following the open distribution of free software and also maintain a large set of copyrights and patents for community use.

Not everyone agrees that “copyleft” is the best approach (as no surprise, Microsoft Corp. objects to it). For example, inadvertently putting a small piece of open code into a large program could invalidate proprietary usage of the entire software package. Options exist, such as dynamic linking, which tend to minimize this problem. Future modifications of the GPL and permissive licenses continue to occur as technology advances and as originators of open source software seek to ensure its continuing legacy.

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## **Software Review - Collectorz.com Book Collector Pro**

*Tanya and Mark Mattson, Computer Users of Erie, PA*

*Newsletter: Horizons ([www.cuerie.com](http://www.cuerie.com)) cuerie1 (at) verizon.net*

I am going to start off with an *Excellent* rating for not only the Book Collector software, but for the content and design of the [Collectorz.com](http://Collectorz.com) site all together.

I had searched for (and found) a book cataloging software application that would do what I needed. Loved it, but it was obsolete and no longer being supported or developed by the author. So I started on the hunt for a new one.

I came across the Collectorz.com Book Collector. It had what I wanted and so much more. I was looking for an easy way to catalog not only the CUE library but ours at home as well. And with simply typing in the ISBN or *scanning* the bar code, it is good to go. Yes you do need a barcode scanner to make that feature work, but it is an extra way of inputting your books...NOT the only way.

Upon visiting their website, the first thing one notices is that they offer so much more. Music, movie, book, comic, game, mp3, and photo collector

applications. All their programs are Windows friendly, and several - Music, Movie, Book and Comic Collector - are also Mac compatible. This is always a big plus for me; I get annoyed at the software companies that cater to one system or the other. Just adds so much confusion. And since I know our members have PC and Mac systems all around, it is great to be able to do a software review that can benefit everyone.

So how does it work? Well there is a free trial, and once downloaded and installed it is easy to begin. You can just type (or scan) the ISBNs of your books. Or you can enter the author and title – either way it will *auto-download* book details and the cover art, and load all this information into the program’s database fields for you.

This is not just a catalog of files. Once entered you can sort and search, you can browse the database (your book inventory – or collection) by Author, Title, Publisher, etc. Grouping books by Genres or

Author into folders is another handy feature built in to the program.

Export your data in various formats, including to you iPad, iPhone, and Android devices. Won't be at the book store rummaging around for that scrap of paper that in some weird shorthand I made up to tell me what I have and don't have in my library. Printing is also an option.

What I found to be one of the nicest features was their trial. Not a 15 day limit, but 100 book entries. Try it out for a spin, and see that it is a win. Be aware, however, that the TRIAL version is actually the PRO version...all features are available for you to try out. If you purchase only the Standard edition license, those features listed as being in the PRO version will no longer function. Please remember this when purchasing.

Catalog customization options are available in either Edition. One can edit a books' details. There is a collection status field; is a title on your wish-list, for sale, already owned, or out on loan. You can flag any number of titles with such custom information tags.

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As this review was based on a download version, we can only assume that the CD will auto-run when inserted in your computer drive, starting the installer automatically. However, we could not test this out. But as that is the way modern programs are set up, it is likely to be the case.

The program appears to use very little of your system resources. In fact, I couldn't find any listed system requirements on their website, other than the operating systems supported. For Windows, it needs Windows 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7. For Mac users, you need at least OS-X v10.4 or higher, up to and including Lion.

Please note that you will also need an active Internet connection, to enable auto-downloading of your book details and cover images.

There are several localized translations for the Windows platform besides English, but the Mac version is English-only. Also, when you go to the store page to purchase, if you are buying a Mac license, be sure to use the link at the top right of the store page to go to the Mac order area...otherwise,

## **Installation and System Requirements**

Book Collector is available direct from the publisher's website at [www.collectorz.com](http://www.collectorz.com). Click on the Book Collector tab at the top to go to the proper page. There you will find the link to download a trial version, or to go to their online store to purchase a license.

The program is delivered via direct download. You are emailed a link to the download location, where you save the file to your system. It is a small download, only 5.5 MB in size...so it will download fairly quickly.

There is also the option to have it delivered via physical shipment of a CD for an extra \$9.95. If you wish the CD to be shipped, be sure to select this option during purchase. The disc comes in a DVD-style case, with the program logo on the cover.

For those downloading the program, the file is a self-extractor; double-click on it to start the installation procedure. Installation is simple and straightforward; select the default options, and you're ready to go in a matter of about a minute.

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you'll be getting a Windows license.

Book Collector can be purchased in two versions: a Standard Edition for \$29.95, and a Pro Edition for larger collections priced at \$49.95. Remember that the trial version is actually the full Pro version. Many Pro-only features will NOT be available if you only purchase the Standard edition.

As indicated before, there are a *ton* of options available for you to work with your book data. You can sort your database by any field, do custom searches, and more. You even have the ability to save custom searches as presets for future use - saving you time in recreating them later.

The default view of the program can be changed, either to one of several available presets, or you can go all out and create custom templates, to change the look of the interface to fit your taste.

One feature that is available is the ability to use a barcode scanner to input the ISBN numbers on your books. This will vastly speed up the process of cataloging your collection, especially those with hundreds or thousands of titles.

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Collectorz.com sells several barcode scanners that they've tested to work with the software. They are listed on the store page for your convenience. One such unit is the Cuecat scanner. It lists for \$19.95 in their store. BUT, if you're like me and like to haunt Radio Shack stores, about 10 years ago or so they gave away these units with their yearly catalog. I still have mine, and will be hooking it up to try out in the near future. The only thing is, I think it's an RS-232 model, and I'll need an RS232-to-USB adapter to connect it to my system.

Are you one that lets others borrow your books? Then this program will also benefit you. The PRO version also has a Lending system built-in, giving you the ability to track the titles you lend to friends and family. You can enter names, dates, and other information such as notes, to help ensure you get your treasured books back.

You even have options for printing and exporting lists of your collection, to such formats as HTML and XML. Allowing you to publish to your website for all to see. But exporting is only in the PRO

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currency field to match your location. Thus, for US users, it uses the \$ as we are all used to. If it shows something different, better check your system settings!

There is a LOT more that can be published here on this program. However, it would most likely fill up the rest of the available space doing so. If you want some really in-depth information and looks at Book Collector, be sure to go to the website and look at all related pages.

There is an online manual there, giving you details on all functions and features. Many topics also have short video tutorials or demos embedded in them, to give you a better grasp of a certain concept. A really well done and designed document. Unfortunately, there is no way it can be printed at this time...but it is always online, ready and waiting if you need it.

There is also a Help / FAQ page, with many standard questions and answers set forth. There are many there that you may not think of when first checking out the program...but the questions I was thinking of were there, and answered to my satisfaction (such as

version.

The only area that MAY bother you to some extent, is the way that the dimensions of the book are shown. As this is a European company that designed Book Collector, they use the metric system for measurements. Thus, the length and width are shown in millimeters, not inches. There also is no option available to switch it to the inch system we in the States use.

However, this really shouldn't be a deal breaker for you when considering the program as a whole. It actually is more accurate, as some books published here use some weird measurements...I've seen books listed as 9.6" on a side. Measuring something like that on your inches ruler will give you fits. Metric measurements are more precise for this. If you really need inch measurements, be patient; the developer has indicated that an option to select inch measurements is on their *To-Do* list for a future revision, so it WILL be an available option at some point.

Currency fields use the OS default location to set the

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'What if my book doesn't have an ISBN number?').

It's obvious that the majority of this review has concentrated on print books being cataloged. But never fear, if you're moving to eBooks or audio books, they too can be added to the database, to ensure you have a complete listing of all your reading materials. Adding these types of media is as easy as scanning the folders they reside in on your hard drives. Once the basic catalog information is imported from the scan, you can use the Update function to retrieve the full information from the online Collectorz.com database.

If books are not the collection manager that is being looked for - Check out their site [www.collectorz.com](http://www.collectorz.com) - tabs on the top will direct you to Music, Movie, Book, Comic, Game, Mp3 and Photo Collector applications.

This program is not just for "collections" which one associates with first editions and rare books, it is an inventory, a database, a cataloging system, that is easy and fun to use.

So check them out - we all know the holidays are

right around the corner, this would make a nice gift for yourself, or someone that has a collection, be it books, games, or movies. And organization goes along way – to make less hectic lives. And less stress. (I hate it when I buy two, [and yes once, but only once three] of the same book or even movie).

For as simple as it is designed to use, this is an amazingly powerful piece of software. It already holds promise of organizing our home book

collection, helping us avoid duplications of titles, and to plan which ones we'd like to add. For the price, it is a bargain. But it is worth a lot more just for the time and effort savings it brings to your life.

Two thumbs up from both of us.

Definitely a ***“Must-Have”***.

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## **Book Review: Creative Landscapes - Digital Photography Tips and Tricks**

**Mark Mattson, Editor, Computer Users of Erie, PA**

**Newsletter: Horizons ([www.cuerie.com](http://www.cuerie.com)) cuerie1 (at) verizon.net**

Walk out your door. It can be either into your front yard, or backyard...doesn't matter. Look around you.

Really look.

No matter where you live - city, rural area, the middle of the desert - what you see (beyond the ordinary, everyday items that fill our lives) is a rich tapestry of earth and sky that makes up the landscape around us.

Photographers that specialize in landscape photography do the same thing as you just did...they take a look around them, and work out ways of showing the world around us in a new and different way, one that can evoke emotions and feelings in viewers that gives you insights into the way the creator of the image sees the world.

As author Harold Davis puts it, “At it's best,

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landscape photography should be conducted as a spiritual exercise related to finding ourselves and our place in the universe.”

Through this book, Harold sets out to do just that: to give you, the reader the insights on how he views his place in the universe by capturing stunning images of the world around us.

Creative Landscapes gives you 239 pages of valuable information, accumulated over many years of photography experience, on how best to create landscape photos that will allow you to share your vision with others.

Divided into four parts, there are a total of 39 chapters inside the covers. That may seem a lot, but they are relatively short and sweet, and much of the page space is taken up with samples of Harold's imagery and descriptions of how he made the photos...and his thoughts behind them.

Part One opens the book by discussing why landscapes make powerful images, and how they an emotional and almost spiritual place in our lives.

Part Two gives pointers on selecting cameras and

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lenses and how best to use them to create successful landscapes.

Part Three talks about the many varied locations and types of landscape scenes a photographer can shoot - ranging from seasonal to urban, desert to seascape and more. Information on how to best capture each locale is given.

Finally, Part Four describes and illustrates how to enhance landscape images in post-processing. Topics examined include RAW file processing, enhancing your images using HDR software and procedures to increase quality and drama; enhancing in Photoshop; and using LAB color mode to sharpen and enhance your images.

Ansel Adams was a big influence on Harold in his early childhood years. Encountering “Moonrise Hernandez, New Mexico” at the age of ten in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, changed Harold and set him on the course he follows today when it comes to his photography. He attempts to impart some of the wonder and creativity this encounter inspired in him to his readers...and does an



admirable job of it throughout the volume.

The majority of the book is illustrated with color images, but he also includes black and white as well, noting that it doesn't matter what the color of an image is; the emotions it can evoke go beyond the color space it is created in when executed properly.

This book is one of the 30+ titles Harold Davis has authored on different areas of photography. I personally have several of them, notably the Digital Darkroom I and II volumes. In every case, his writing style is tight and concise, but also easy to read and understand, in order to allow you to apply his methods to your own imaging.

Personally, I find it highly rewarding to take images of landscapes. Most of my photography now is centered on this subject. Although I've been making

photos for going on 45 years, there is nothing wrong with learning how to make better ones. Through the use of this book and Harold's lessons and advice, I'd like to think I could also improve my skills to take my landscapes to the next level.

If you share the passion of landscape photography, be sure to add this book to your library. It is definitely worth every penny and the time to read it cover to cover.

Creative Landscapes is published by Wiley. It carries a list price of \$29.99, but can be found on Amazon.com for \$19.59, a savings of 35% (shipping is extra).

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## **Book Review: The Art of Community**

**Gregory West, VP of Sarnia Computer Users' Group, Canada (<http://www.scug.ca>)**

**gregory (at) alternatcloud.com (Blog - <http://gregorywest.wordpress.com>)**

The Art of Community

"View our social world from different eyes!"

By Jono Bacon, forward by Leo Laporte

O'Reilly Media, 363 pages

USA - \$39.99 / CAN - \$49.99

<http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596157234>

Amanda McPherson, of the Linux Foundation, declares this book "isn't just for technology leaders - anyone who wants to harness community for their cause should read this book." I agree.

This book is about "B E L O N G I N G." Bacon tells us this should be a sign in everyone's office and should be "at the forefront of your inspiration behind building a strong community. If there is no belonging, there is no community." I agree.

This book gives us the tools to build "strategic plans" to build our own communities, whether it is in a church, a computer group, on an online forum. Bacon speaks to all communities. Bacon also demonstrates how "communication is the key to tying it all together and "leading by example" as many examples are given throughout.

I agree with Bacon's principle that "simple is sustainable." He talks about "processes" that keep

things in perspective, "eyes on the prize," keeping things in perspective with our said plan for the community and how it functions. We are shown how to build alliances and then test how we fare in the community in by using a "conflict resolution process."

My need for this book is to help build my community within my website. I find it helpful while setting up a training structure for volunteers who help seniors learn about computers and technology. Building an effective community is what this book is all about. We are taken by the hand in a sort of step-by-step process, one that works in the Linux community, and others across the globe. We need to work and build effectively together, this book show us the way.

Leo Laporte says that "Jono has written a guide with everything you need to keep your online groups healthy and productive." Online or off, every group should read this book.

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# SIG News

## LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)  
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

### Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)  
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

### Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)  
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

### Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

## Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)  
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

## Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

## WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

### Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

[http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig\\_investment.html](http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html)

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

### NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

[www.lanparty.com](http://www.lanparty.com)

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

### Firefox

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

### C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

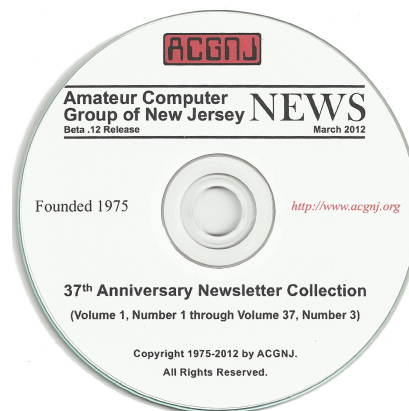
### Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

### 37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

### Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

## Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

### Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

### Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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## Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
Computer Games	\$10.95	20.95	29.95
Computer Gaming World	14.95	28.95	41.95
Computer Shopper1	16.97	32.95	47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	15.95	30.95	
Mac Addict	10.97		
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What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? \_\_\_\_\_



Other Local Computer Groups		
<b>Princeton Macintosh User Group:</b> 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, <a href="http://www.pmug-nj.org">www.pmug-nj.org</a>	<b>Linux Users Group in Princeton:</b> 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ <a href="http://www.lugip.org">http://www.lugip.org</a>	<b>New York PC:</b> 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, <a href="http://www.nypc.org">http://www.nypc.org</a>
<b>Computer Education Society of Philadelphia:</b> Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. <a href="http://www.cesop.org/">www.cesop.org/</a>	<b>Brookdale Computer Users Group:</b> 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. <a href="http://www.bcug.com">www.bcug.com</a>	<b>NJ Macintosh User Group:</b> 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 <a href="http://www.njmug.org">http://www.njmug.org</a> .
<b>PC User Group of So. Jersey:</b> 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	<b>Hunterdon Computer Club:</b> 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. <a href="http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org">www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org</a> , (908) 995-4042.	<b>NY Amateur Computer Group:</b> 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. <a href="http://www.nyacc.org">http://www.nyacc.org</a>
<b>Morris Micro Computer Club:</b> 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. <a href="http://www.morrimicro.com">http://www.morrimicro.com</a>	<b>Central Jersey Computer Club:</b> 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	<b>NJ PC User Group:</b> 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, <a href="http://www.njpcug.org">www.njpcug.org</a>
<b>Philadelphia Area Computer Society:</b> 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. <a href="http://www.pacsnet.org">www.pacsnet.org</a>	<b>NJ Computer Club:</b> 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. <a href="http://www.njcc.org">http://www.njcc.org</a>	<b>Princeton PC Users Group:</b> 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, <a href="http://www.ppcug-nj.org">http://www.ppcug-nj.org</a>

## Classified

**FREE TO MEMBERS.** Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, [bdegroot@ptd.net](mailto:bdegroot@ptd.net). Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



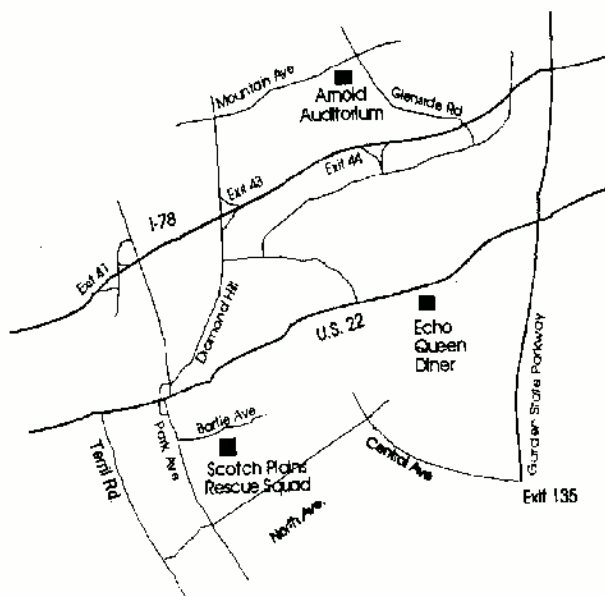
## Radio and TV Programs

**Computer Radio Show,** WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

**Software Review,** The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

**On Computers,** WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

**PC Talk,** Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



## Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

### From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

### From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

### From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

### From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

### From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐